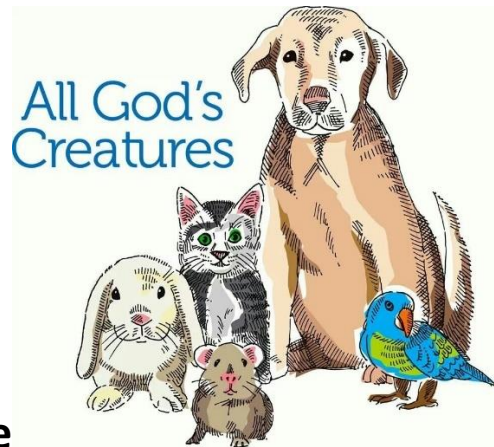


# Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



**Teddy Bears Picnic**



**Pet Service**

**September Fun at St Mary's – full details inside**

**September 2025**

*Here with you - Here for you*

Printed copies are available from St Mary's church

## PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

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## Sabbatical Moments

It's good to be back!

It's been such a privilege to be gifted three months to refuel and renew, and I'm so grateful to everyone who stepped up and stepped in while I was on sabbatical. It's been an incredibly full yet spacious time which has inspired and challenged and deepened me in so many ways. Here's a little whistle-stop tour to give you a flavour!

The three months were bookended with two trips back home to Ireland. The first involved a road trip which began with a couple of days in Dublin's fair city sampling the Guinness and visiting galleries and museums. We then moved south to Ireland's oldest city, Waterford, where we visited the fascinating Museum of the Irish Wake, my chosen theme to study during the sabbatical. If that's of interest, come along to a talk I'm doing on the 24<sup>th</sup> subtitled 'How the Irish teach us to live, love and die'. From Waterford, we travelled to the multicoloured port of Kinsale, followed by a few days in beautiful Westport before heading up through Donegal to the North to spend time with family. On return, I did a five-day silent retreat with the Northumbria Community (by mistake!) Turns out it was exactly the mistake I needed! Silence does indeed speak. It was a time of personal stocktaking, revisiting past relationships and listening to God's still small voice.

A week in Sorrento and the Amalfi coast was a real highlight, visiting the ancient ruins of Herculaneum, taking a boat trip to the stunning cliffside village of Positano, sampling cocktails and lemon sorbet by the ocean, and eating pizza in Piazza Tasso (named after the poet who I've unknowingly been quoting for years in my wedding sermon!).

It was lovely visiting my two grown-up children Rosie and Elijah in their adopted cities of Bristol and Liverpool, and then to end my time with a final trip back to Ireland with them both. We made lots of great new memories, and it was particularly wonderful to watch my 20 and 24 yr olds lost in the rock pools and rock climbing of our favourite harbour at Balintoy. We also went to two places I'd never been to before because they had always felt like no-go areas for a Protestant; the Bogside of Derry and the Falls Rd of Belfast. We visited the murals and the Free Derry Museum and went on a walking tour of the Falls Rd. It was deeply challenging and eye opening and moving, and offered another side to a story I thought I knew.

Not everyone can take three months out of the demands and responsibilities of life. We each can however choose to make sabbatical moments within our days, moments to pause, reflect and recharge. I'm planning on continuing to practice that sabbatical spirit as life hits the ground running.

Alan

## **Welcome back Rev Alan!**

It's great to have Rev Alan back amongst us following his well deserved 3 month sabbatical. Although we missed him greatly (!) the services and day to day running of the church continued very smoothly and for that we have to thank our church wardens David and Robin but particularly all those who did the services (especially the All-Age) and sermons. So big thanks to Melanie, Forbes, Geoff, Rev Scott and last but certainly not least Rev Bill Church who ended up doing more services than originally scheduled.

## **Registers**

### **Wedding**

14 June – **Michael McGuinnity & Clara Ritchie**

26 July – **Ojorhelumi Kanwei & Kathryn Spencer**

2 August – **Caelen Anderson & Isabella Edgar**

### **Baptism – Welcome into the family of the Church**

27 April - **Sienna Keen**

Parents James and Claire were married at St Mary's and elder brother Roman was baptised here in 2022.

1 June - **Isla Mary Keane**

### **Funeral**

24 May - **Ian Mortimer** aged 94 (Memorial Service and burial of ashes)

Ian knew Hertingfordbury when his grandchildren were at the Cowper School. He and Clarice moved to Spain where Ian was a leading light in their local Anglican church. His ashes were buried with Clarice's and a bagpipe lament was played by two grandsons.

29 June - **Gillian McKenna** (Burial of ashes). Gillian was born in Kenya. She was a talented artist and art teacher and active in Courtyard Arts in Hertford.

22 July - **Alan Carter** aged 87. Printer, town planner and conservation specialist, Alan loved to paint boats from his native Norfolk. Husband to Eunice, father to Tracey and Ian.

## Some Dates for your Diary

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September – **Mindfulness on Sele** 10.30am at the Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent. Also on 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm in St Andrews church and on line. On line only on 17<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September – **Teddy Bears Picnic** 3.30 – 5pm at St Mary's (see poster)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – **All Creatures Great & Small Pet Service** 3pm at St Mary's. All pets welcome! (see poster)

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – **Irish Wake** 7.30pm at St Andrew's. How the Irish teach us to Live, Love & Die. A talk by Rev Alan Stewart (see poster)

### Sunday Services at St Mary's

**Sung Eucharist** 9.15am every Sunday

**Zoom Sunday Service** at 10.30am (joining details from Robin Bishop)

**All Age Service** 9.15am on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (unless notified)

Sunday  
Morning Worship on Zoom

Our weekly service on Zoom on Sunday mornings is taking a break for the rest of the month, returning on Sunday 7 September.



This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church

# ***The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary***

## ***Events 2025***

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Bike ‘N Hike** (see poster)

**Saturday 22 November - Christmas Market** 10-13.00. Stall holders all booked

**Friday 12 December – WGC Male Voice Choir** 19.30 (more details to follow)

### **Helping the Friends**

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary was granted charitable status in 2023 (Charity number 1206041).

The purpose of The Friends is to raise money for the restoration and preservation of the church building and churchyard. The funds are not for the day to day running of the church. That's the responsibility of the congregation. We should like to make sure that this beautiful church is here for future generations.

If you would like to make a donation there is a card reader at the back of the church on the wall by the South Door or please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support. Helen Bishop the [fobury@outlook.com](mailto:fobury@outlook.com) / 07746 694890



### **Chris Seward (70 years)**

The burial of Chris Seward, witnessed by his close family, took place at St Mary's on 2<sup>nd</sup> July following his funeral at our sister church St Andrew's. Chris, who passed away in June after a short illness, was the Deputy Warden and Chair of Finance at St Andrews and did so much for the church and the wider community, notably with Hertford Museum and as deputy chair of governors at Hertford St Andrew School.

At St Andrew's he organised the yearly Harvest Beer Festival and Beer and Carols, set up an incredible programme of folk music concerts, helped lead the men's Bible study group and was integral in getting the church Audio Visual system installed and paid for.

Many of us at St Mary's will know him better for his organisation of the annual Away Days involving both churches and in fact many of us will have last spent time with Chris at the most recent Away Day at All Nations College in Ware in early May.

He was always patient, calm, considerate and courteous and did everything with such grace, faithfulness and kindness. Our love, thoughts and prayers continue to be with Melanie and the family. We will all miss him. God bless you Chris



Calling all young families

## Teddy Bears' Picnic

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.30 – 5pm

Please bring your Teddy,  
and your own picnic!

Food, fun, games and a story!

St Mary's Church Hertingfordbury

Contact Alan 07986 979769 [h.alanstewart1@gmail.com](mailto:h.alanstewart1@gmail.com)



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## The Irish Wake

*How the Irish teach us to live, love and die*



**A talk by Rev. Alan Stewart**

**An exploration of Irish customs around death, dying  
and a reflection on a good death.**

**St Andrew's Church Hertford, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm**

# All Creatures Great & Small

*A short service of thanksgiving for the pets & animals that  
have become part of the family*



## Pet Service

**3pm, Sunday 21st September at St Mary's Hertingfordbury  
Everyone and all pets very welcome**

## Sponsor a Hymn Book at St Mary's ?



Would you like to sponsor a hymn book? Include a dedication in it to the memory of someone special or a beloved pet. They would forever be in our church.

St Mary's needs to renew its hymn books, hopefully by Harvest Sunday. Donation will be £10 per book. Please contact Robin Bishop 07984 019797 [robinhbishop@gmail.com](mailto:robinhbishop@gmail.com)



# Summer Fun Day at St Mary's - July 2025



**Hettie & Kristina launching the wet rocket – Dawn & Gill running “Duck-La” & “Ball in the Bucket”**

A great Summer Fun Day at St Mary's back in July. A good turnout of “Grown Ups” and children enjoyed lovely weather and much fun playing our traditional games and enjoying the cream teas & hospitality.

Huge thanks to all those who organised the day, set up the teddy zipwire, ran the games, donated prizes and did the cream teas.

Thanks also to all who came and supported the event – a special afternoon in our lovely churchyard.



**Teddy on the zipwire – Aime won the Welly Toss – Delicious cream teas**

## ***“What am I Worth?”***

**We are continuing to highlight some of the very meaningful messages from our church sermons, not only by Revs Alan & Bill, but also by our inspiring team of Lay Readers of Worship. This month, in a slightly edited version, Rev Alan asks the question *“What am I Worth?”***

Recently, I’ve been selling off some of my record collection, mainly to make way for more records! Once a vinyl junkie, always a vinyl junkie. Imagine my surprise when I listed on Ebay a twelve inch single by Norwegian synth-pop trio A-ha and, what I’d picked up in a Belfast bargain bin in the 1980s for 99p, sold for a staggering £325.15!



Why is it worth that much? Well, I guess it’s a combination of rarity (it’s like hen’s teeth apparently), condition (it’s in great nick) and collectability (there is at least two crazy A-ha collectors out there willing to pay crazy money to own it!)

Let’s ask a slightly different question; ‘how do we judge a person’s worth?’ What criteria might we use? Rarity? Well we’re all ‘one of a kind’; ain’t no other you, ain’t no other me. Collectability? Desire, I suppose, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Condition? Well some of us are definitely in better shape than others. Which reminds me my cassock is definitely shrinking!

More likely, we would judge someone’s worth by their wealth, their skills, their status, their usefulness; their achievements, their youth, their health, their appearance, their class, their clothes; their politics; their colour.

It’s a very human thing to judge others, and ourselves, even if we know that the real answer to the ‘what am I worth?’ question is found in ‘none of the above’.

Which brings me to the parable in the Gospel of Luke. It starts with a question about one of those incredibly divisive things; inheritance. Jesus however isn’t interested in arbitrating between the brothers involved. Instead he says ‘guard yourself from all kinds of greed; life doesn’t consist in an abundance of possessions’. And then he goes on to tell a parable about a rich man who lands a record harvest, so he tears down the existing barns and builds bigger ones. Then he says to himself “relax, take it easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

A real success story. This guy’s now worth a lot. But what good is all that achievement, all those possessions, all that success, Jesus asks, when in the blink of an eye, it can disappear. When that great leveller Death comes-a-calling, you can’t take any of it with you. It’s an ageless story; we devote our lives to stockpiling for our future, only to discover that we have no future.

Death gives everything perspective. It reminds us just how precious and fragile and short this one life can be.

## ***“What am I Worth?”***

This parable, I have to admit, hits hard personally. Not just because I’m stockpiling records, but because I know I base my identity and security in the wrong things; my job for instance, how ‘successful’ the churches are that I lead; in how much I’m respected or liked, and yes, in the possessions I have. I’ve bought into that consumer lie, that I am what I have. And it’s a trap because all of these things can change just like that.

Self worth needs to be grounded in something or someone else; something or someone bigger; something or someone dependable.

The answer to the question ‘what am I worth?’ is, I believe, ‘I’m worth what God thinks I’m worth’. And believe it, he holds each one of us in the highest regard possible, so high in fact, he thinks we’re worth dying for. This is the true basis of our worth and identity.

## ***“Rich Towards God”***

Jesus ends his parable with a call to be ‘rich towards God’. What did he mean? Well, typically he didn’t say. I think first and foremost he’s calling us to prioritise and invest in our relationship with God. When we do that, we begin to see God’s definition of ‘rich’.

- To be rich in compassion, that ability literally to suffer alongside someone else.
- To be rich in generosity, with our time, our money, our resources.
- To be rich in human-kindness and mercy and forgiveness.

The rich man in the parable is painted as a self-centred and solitary person, with no one to leave his fortune to. His entire focus is on his own wellbeing and therefore he leaves no lasting legacy of any worth, just barns full of rotting grain.

Every time we are ‘rich towards God’, a legacy is created that doesn’t end when we end; it goes on living in others.

Ronald Rolheiser, the American priest and theologian, tells the story of a young student he knew living with terminal cancer, who once said these extraordinary words; *‘There are only two tragedies in life and one of them is not dying young. These are the two tragedies; if you go through life and don’t love and if you go through life and don’t tell those whom you love that you love them’*.

I say that you are loved, God’s beloved. And so is each and every person who walks this earth. And understanding this is the secret to breaking down the barriers between us. You know, maybe Jesus refused to provide the legal answer to the man’s question about inheritance because he wanted the man to focus on his relationship with his brother, rather than the accumulation of wealth. If he had intervened, then maybe it would have led not only to a division of property but also the rupture in a relationship.

On the face of it, Jesus was by our standards of success and worth, a failure. He was poor, discredited, finally abandoned and crucified. And yet the riches of his life, his story, his teaching, his sacrifice, his Spirit, his legacy lives on millennia later, through each life that models his.

If the young man had asked Jesus a different question; ‘what am I worth?’, I imagine he would have said ‘everything’.

Rev Alan



# Notes from Eco Church



It's just over a year since we set up St Mary's Eco Church group. We have made a lot of progress since then. The Eco Church project is there to support churches in caring for God's earth. (If you'd like to find out more about the thinking behind the Eco Church movement, there are more details here: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>)

We celebrated Environment Sunday for the first time on 6 October last year during Creation Tide. We've developed two Churchyard nature trails providing opportunities to explore the nature of our beautiful churchyard, investigated the possibility of a bat survey and researched what St Mary's can do to reduce its carbon footprint. We're well on our way to achieving our Eco Church Bronze Award!

We have plans to do more and so we've been discussing:

- the possibility of solar panels in the church's valley roof.
- zoned heating in the church and the use of renewable energy.
- having an exhibition on Environment Sunday, with tips on how to be more environmentally friendly including how to Take the Jump, by committing to a few simple actions <https://takethejump.org/>
- creating wildlife habitats in the churchyard
- sharing information about how to Pledge Your Pond for wildlife – Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is creating a map of local ponds here: <https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/pledge-pond-for-wildlife>
- finding out more about the rare lichens in our churchyard
- hosting a nature themed art/photography exhibition

As it's about a year since we launched the Churchyard Nature Trail, it seems like a good time to share some of Nick Hoyle's reflections here – and perhaps you would like to explore them yourself!

## Extracts from the Churchyard Nature Trail

### The Holly and the Ivy

In the South West corner, there is a holly hedge intertwined with ivy. Evergreen even in the depths of winter, holly and ivy are rich in Christian symbolism:

## Notes from Eco Church

*The holly and the ivy*

*When they are both full grown*

*Of all the trees that are in the wood*

*The holly bears the crown.*

The spiny leaves recall Jesus' crown of thorns, and the berries became associated with the drops of blood shed for humanity's salvation.

### The Mini Meadow

On the left of the path to the church door, there is a meadow patch which is left unmown in the Spring. In May time you can see the lacy white flowers of the rare Meadow Saxifrage here.

Just opposite, you may see narrow-leaf plantain growing along the edges of many of the gravestones. This thrives on ground that has been disturbed. Its preserved pollen in archaeological sites is used as an indicator of when our prehistoric ancestors shifted from being hunter-gatherers to farming the land.

### The Tree Chapel

Opposite the South door is a group of four Horse Chestnut trees. Walk through them and you will find an ancient part of St Mary's church: the *sedilia* where priests once sat. Look up, and you will see a ceiling of vaulting branches. At your feet, you may find horse chestnuts bursting out of their prickly jackets.

There's an ancient saying that the Bible is the book of God's word, and nature the book of God's works. This space is like a chapel formed by majestic trees.

The horse chestnut is a showy tree. In spring it is adorned with candles of blossom in cream or pink. In autumn its startling spiky seed cases reveal beautifully glossy chestnuts much-coveted by schoolchildren in days gone by. Its wood, however, makes poor timber and its chestnuts are no good for eating. So perhaps its value is more as a symbol than as something of practical utility?

Anne Frank wrote about a horse chestnut tree that she could see from the place she and her family hid from the Nazis. When that tree finally came to the end of its natural life, saplings grown from its last horse chestnuts were sent around the world as symbols of hope.



## Coffee, Cake and Church at St Mary's

One of the great delights of the post Covid services at St Mary's has been the introduction of coffee morning after every Sunday Service rather than just once a month. Not only is it a delicious half an hour but a chance to socialise with our friends at the church and especially good to get to know everyone.



We also have a fantastic number of cake makers so we get quite a variety and so this month I am highlighting Juliet's much appreciated Courgette cake due to popular demand. Below is the recipe and instructions and apologies that courgettes might just be going out of season!

Anyway, we also want to emphasise that that even if you are not a member of the congregation at the service, you are very welcome to join us around 10.15 on a Sunday and get the chance to not only have coffee, cake and a chat but also enjoy the wonderful church building that sits right at the heart of our villages and community.

### Flora's Famous Courgette Cake

#### Ingredients

- 2 Courgettes, grated
- 2 large eggs
- 125ml vegetable oil
- 150g caster sugar
- 225g self-raising flour
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- For the filling: Lemon curd, double cream
- Chopped pistachios to sprinkle on top

#### Method

Grate the courgettes, turn them into a sieve, press some of the excess water out and leave.

Grease and line 2x21cm sandwich tins

Heat oven to Gas Mark 4.

Put eggs, oil and sugar in a bowl and beat until creamy.

Place in the flour, bicarb of soda and baking powder and beat until well-combined. Stir in the grated courgette.

Divide mixture between the two tins and bake for 25-30min.

Turn out and leave to cool.

Spread base with lemon curd, then layer of cream.

Place top layer on, dust with icing sugar and sprinkle with chopped pistachios (if using).



## Autumn Events at Celtic Harmony Camp



Celtic Harmony Camp is opening its gates every weekend to celebrate our 25th anniversary! Drop by and enjoy a relaxing walk around the celtic village set in acres of native woodland before sampling freshly made food inspired by celtic-mediterranean cuisine and prepared by our chefs in The Woodland Bistro. You can discover more at the Stone to Iron Age exhibition in the Prehistory Centre. Get active, challenge friends and family to the 9-hole disc golf course around the woods. Or simply sit back and enjoy the tranquil pace of Celtic Harmony Camp. The Woodland Bistro caters for your private events and celebrations including a disk golf party package. For an extra special evening master storyteller Hugh Lupton will be performing in the Chieftain Roundhouse on Saturday the 20th September from 7:00 to 9:30 pm to celebrate the autumn equinox, when day and night are of equal length. The next family day out will be our Samhain Celebrations to mark the start of the celtic new year. Explore the haunted forest and enjoy a fun packed day of activities ranging from mini broomstick making to pumpkin clay crafts, drumming workshops and a fire procession around the woods. Autumn themed menu available at The Woodland Bistro.



Drop by on the weekends, book your special events or if you are interested in volunteering as part of our friendly conservation team go to [celticharmony.org](https://celticharmony.org). We look forward to seeing you! - Clare and Luca, Celtic Harmony Camp <https://celticharmony.org/events/>



## ***Church Flower Rota - September***



***7<sup>th</sup> Sue Parsell - 14<sup>th</sup> Sharron Maxwell & Penny Duce  
21<sup>st</sup> Jean Skinner - 28<sup>th</sup> Alison Robinson***

*We are extremely grateful for the time, generosity and skill that the flower team give each week to make the church look so beautiful*



## Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

# Bike 'n Hike

Saturday 13 September 2025

9am to 5pm



*For more information please make contact:*

Christopher M.T.

07860 228294

[maundertc@aol.com](mailto:maundertc@aol.com)



- ▶ Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels
- ▶ Raise funds for your local church or chapel
- ▶ Help save other churches in Beds and Herts



BEDS & HERTS  
Historic Churches Trust

*Bike 'n Hike* in association with the national *Ride + Stride*  
and with acknowledgements to **THE WIXAMTREE TRUST**  
[www.bedshertshct.org.uk](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk) BHHCT Registered Charity No. 1197228



## ***Bike 'n Hike 2025***

*I wonder how it would feel if our local village Church were to be lost : converted into some other use and no longer a focal point for our community? Some years ago that is what happened to St John's Chapel at Letty Green, which is now a house.*

*Maintaining the fabric of a Church is a costly business. Local congregations are mostly "senior" and in some cases are dwindling – although this is certainly not a universal trait. Raising the money required is difficult.*

*The Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust is set up to raise and distribute funding for the maintenance and repair of Church Buildings. The annual Bike 'n Hike event - on the second weekend in September – is a principal fund-raiser. Participants visit the Churches in their area, sponsored by friends, families and well-wishers, by bike, on foot or by any other means. At each Church, there may be a team of helpers to meet, greet and refresh the visitors and these helpers are also sponsored.*

*Your support for these efforts is crucial. Of the money pledged and collected, half goes to The Trust, together with any Gift Aid, for distribution in the form of Grants, the other half going to the individual Church nominated by the person cycling or walking as a sponsored participant.*

*I would really appreciate your support either with a message of good wishes or in the form of sponsorship for the efforts of the Team. There is a "Just Giving" page or you may prefer to donate directly. The link to the Just Giving page is :*

*[www.justgiving.com/page/christopher-maunders-taylor-7](http://www.justgiving.com/page/christopher-maunders-taylor-7)*

*My personal challenge is to visit all 36 Churches in the Hertford Area as designated by BHHCT. There will be a number of cyclists, walkers and others visiting Churches in the Hertford Deanery and a group of people at St Mary's with refreshments to welcome visitors from other Churches. Everyone would welcome your support.*

*Christopher Maunders Taylor*



### **Autumn Litter Pick**

The next litter pick around Hertingfordbury and the Five Greens will be on **Saturday 11th October, at 9.30am**. Anyone who would like to join us at this, or any future litter picks, please email Sarah Sullivan [sullivanpipers@icloud.com](mailto:sullivanpipers@icloud.com)

It is important to let us know you are coming so that we can add you to our list, allocate teams to areas and provide all the equipment. Many thanks. Sarah Sullivan & Ray Green

## ***Friends of Panshanger Park***

*Panshanger Park is a wonderful natural area within our wider community and so the Friends of Panshanger Park are sharing some of it's history - some of which will include the village and greens and some not.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***The Charitable Countess***

***This month The Friends focus on the 7<sup>th</sup> Countess Cowper, Katrine, and her generosity and considerable amount of work she did for our villages and the community in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries***

The portrait of the 7<sup>th</sup> Countess, Katrine, by Edward Clifford, the Aesthetic Movement artist, shows her artistic temperament (note the North American Indian-style necklace) and she was said to have a studio at Panshanger where she sketched, painted and did woodworking and carving. Some of her carving is said to be the friezes seen in the first-floor rooms at Mayflower Place.



**7<sup>th</sup> Countess Cowper, Katrine & the carvings believed to be hers at Mayflower Place**

Mayflower Place at Hertingfordbury started life as a memorial to her husband, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Cowper, who died in 1905. Erected by her in 1910 (but not finished at her death) and in the Jacobethan style then popular as part of the Arts and Crafts Movement. It was intended as a village hall for use of the villagers and was financed and kept up after her death in 1913 by Lady Desborough. After Lady Desborough's death in 1952, it was sold by her heir, grandson Julian Salmond, to the East Hertfordshire Masonic Lodge and renamed Mayflower Place. The Cowper coat of arms on the gable includes the motto 'Tuum Est' – 'It is yours'. The Friends of Panshanger Park have adopted that motto for the parkland which is now open to everyone.



## ***The Charitable Countess***

An Evangelical Christian, as was Clifford, she published religious tracts and was very involved in church choirs, producing the Choir Books for Hertingfordbury. An accomplished organist, she also organised concerts for the poor as an alternative to the beer house. This interest extended to the restoration of St Albans cathedral and to the rebuilding of Hertingfordbury church in 1890. Her concern for others led to her being active in charitable work.

She set up the Countess Cowper Training school. Kelly's Directory states that this was for domestic servants and situated at Birch Green. Founded in 1876 for 10 girls and run under the eagle eye of Mrs Caroline Murray, Mistress. This was in addition to the children's school which had been founded in 1850 for 250 children, although the average attendance was 108. It had a Master, Jesse Gibson, with Miss Helen Hinman as Mistress.

The girls from the Training School took part in the annual Harvest Home and Horticultural Show at Hertingfordbury in 1880. The report in *The Mercury* of 2 October highlighted the sermons preached by the Bishop of Queensland on the mission work of his diocese. It carries on 'The interior of the building had been tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion by the ladies of the parish, assisted by Mrs. R. Rutland, Miss Rutland and Miss Smallpiece; also by the girls of Countess Cowper's training school. Flowers were sent from Panshanger'.

Cassells Magazine of 1883 bemoaned the lack of good servants 'There are few grades of society, from the lodging-house keeper upwards, where the want of good servants is not felt; and continual is the complaint of the general deterioration of the class.' The answer to this was the setting up of domestic training establishments for village girls to make them useful servants for the big houses, where their skills could be honed to provide the seamless service expected. There were a great many duties to be mastered as detailed in the 1884 edition of the magazine; from perfectly shiny knives to neatly laid fires, exquisitely laundered linen to washing the eggs coming in from the poultry yard. Countess Katrine's school thus offered both a career in domestic service at a great house and a supply of trained servants, which were always required. Boys had more options, with trade apprenticeships and informal training on the great estates and were not in need of such training schools.

Countess Katrine's charity extended to adult women as well. She financed and supported a Home of Rest for Distressed Ladies, in Hertingfordbury, run by matron Mrs Harms. This accorded well with her interest in nursing and she was President of the Hertfordshire County Nursing Association and a supporter of Hertford County Hospital.

She was very involved in charitable work beyond the village, setting up penny saving schools for boys and girls in Tewin, as well as Hertingfordbury and active amongst the poor in London, notably St Agatha's Charity in Finsbury.


**Footnote** :- The Friends of Panshanger Park would be very interested to hear from anyone who may know of the whereabouts of the buildings that housed the training school and the convalescent home.

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## Recreation Ground Library

A library, containing books, both fiction and non-fiction, including a good children's section, DVD's and games has been set up in the tennis pavilion on the Hertingfordbury recreation ground.

This is a free resource for all Hertingfordbury residents. Access can be gained at any time by the use of keys that are kept in a key-safe at the pavilion. Should anyone have any books, DVD's, or games to donate to the library new stock is always welcome.

If you are interested in using this facility please contact Penny or Mick Barratt on 07715 378212 and they can provide you with the key safe access code



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25 September – **The Bloomsbury Group: The Art of Vanessa Bell**

30 October – **Oscar Wilde: 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Importance of Being Earnest**

27 November – **A Right Royal Christmas** followed by our Winter Lunch

For more information please go to our website

[www.theartssocietyeastherts.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietyeastherts.org.uk)

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We meet on Tuesday evenings in term time at Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford, SG14 2LW. Visit <https://www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts> or email us on [sehscds@hotmail.com](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) for more info.

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# Hertingfordbury Parish Council

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**Vice Chairman** – Haidy Blake

**Councillors** – Niki Gordon, Roger Morris, Simon Bostock, Lesley Clark

**Member of Parliament** – Chris Hinchliff

**County Councillor** – Ken Crofton

**District Councillor** – Bob Deering

If you wish to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk

**Clerk:** Katie Eyre at [clerk@hertingfordbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hertingfordbury-pc.gov.uk)

## Council Meetings

Meetings are at Hertingfordbury Cowper School between 7pm – 9pm. Members of the public are welcome. Please see website for latest dates

To report an issue with fly tipping, highway fault, overflowing rubbish, street lighting etc, please call East Herts District Council directly on 01279 655261 or go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/>



## Defibrillators

Please note that Defibrillators are housed on the outside walls of the.....

- Parish Room (The Brace Room) at St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury
- Cowper School, Birch Green – outside the school gate



## Church Cleaners

We really need people (men or women!) to join our church cleaning rota

It takes a couple of hours every few weeks. We want our beautiful church to always look its best

If you can help please contact Virginia on 01992 583560

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## Churchyard Volunteers Needed



Volunteers required for grass cutting

Between 9 - 12 noon on a Saturday, we are now trying to coordinate dates to coincide with our weddings at St Mary's

Reward is a picnic lunch and good company..... and a laugh!

Please contact David Gorton for more information and timings if you think you can help

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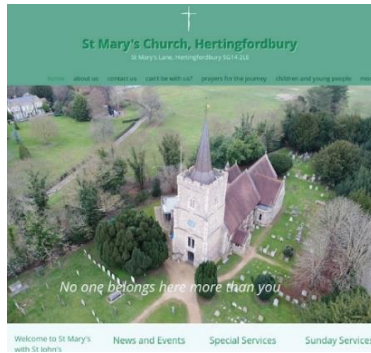
## Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



As part of St. Mary's commitment to be 'Here with you, Here for you' we are pleased that we have been able to keep the church open during the day. However, to do so requires volunteers to open and close the building every day. As a village if we want the church to be open – and I think we do - we need some new volunteers. It is not an onerous task.

Please give serious thought to joining the rota and speak to one of the Churchwardens. Thank you for considering this





**[www.hertingfordburystmary.org](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org)**

The St Mary's website features all the church news including the latest digital Parish News in full colour

This website is a vital communication tool to be able to follow updates on the church.  
If you wish to contribute in any way please contact Rachel via e mail  
[raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk)



### **WhatsApp Groups**

If you would like to be part of the **St Mary's Church WhatsApp Group** please contact David Gorton on 07544 702241

**Hertingfordbury Village WhatsApp Group** is a sociable community group. For more information please contact Mick Barratt

### **Brace Room**

The Brace Room at St Mary's Church is available for hire for anybody in our community. This could be for meetings, exercise sessions or any other purpose. Includes excellent toilet and kitchen facilities. For more information contact David Gorton 01992 551430 or [dgorton1@btinternet.com](mailto:dgorton1@btinternet.com)



## **Zoom Services**

**While we welcome you to services at St Mary's, Zoom services available for your worship**

Please contact the church office if you'd like to be added to our mailing list and receive the service or meeting invitation details: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com) or contact Robin Bishop to be added to the St Mary's distribution list

### **Twice monthly on Wednesday**

Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm

### **Every Sunday**

Service of the Word 10.30am

(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday will offer Communion)

Compline 7.00pm

Please note that a recording of the Reading, Sermon and Prayers from the Sunday morning service is now available on the St Mary's website

[www.hertingfordburystmary.org](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org)



## **Mindfulness & Meditation**

**Explore the riches of Christian Meditation and how it fits with the practice and insights of Mindfulness**

Each weekly session is free and lasts for about 45 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence. Beginners especially welcome!

**Online by Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm except for the first Wednesday which will also be in person at St Andrew's church**

For further details and Zoom codes please see our website

[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)

or contact the church office 01992 504373 [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

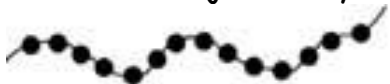
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Something of the order of £1500 is available annually. Typically grants are one-off payments not exceeding £450 for something that will help with the applicant's education in a broad sense, such as a musical instrument, specialist equipment, a field or other course. Grants are available to anyone in school, FE or Higher Education.

An application form is obtainable from Robin Bishop, the Chairman of Walter Wallinger's charity at [robinhbishop@gmail.com](mailto:robinhbishop@gmail.com)





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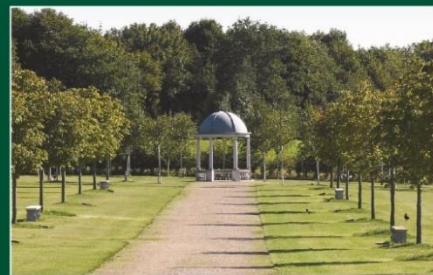
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